

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEMOND RANSOME	:	
100 Sherawater Drive	:	
Apt. G	:	
Durham, NC 27713	:	
Plaintiff	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE	:	
INSURANCE COMPANY,	:	
2001 Market Street, #1500	:	
Philadelphia, PA 19103	:	
Defendant	:	NO.:

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES, the Plaintiff, Demond Ransome, by and through his Counsel, Pond, Lehocky, Giordano, LLP, and hereby complains of the above referenced Defendant, Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company, (hereinafter referred to as “Reliance”), as follows:

I. STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION:

1. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Honorable Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. § 1332(e). This Honorable Court has jurisdiction over all issues raising a federal question and this instant matter involves a disability policy issued to the Claimant through her Employer, thus it is governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) 29 U.S.C. § 1011, et seq.

II. VENUE:

2. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction as all actions and occurrences which give rise to the instant action occurred within the jurisdictional boundaries of this Honorable Court. Specifically, under the ERISA statute, venue is proper “in the district where the plan is administered, where the breach took place, or where a defendant resides or may be found.” 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(2) All acts and occurrences material to the instant causes of action occurred within the jurisdictional boundaries of this Honorable Court as Reliance sent the denial of benefits from a Philadelphia Post Office Box to and the Plaintiff received the denial at 2005 Market St, Philadelphia, PA.

III. FACTS:

3. The Plaintiff, Demond Ransome, is an adult and competent individual with a physical address of 100 Sherawater Drive, Apt. G, Durham, NC 27713.

4. The Defendant, Reliance, under information and belief, is a business entity with a principal place of business located at 2001 Market Street #1500, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

5. Reliance is a business entity, which issues disability insurance policies which are governed by the Employee Retirement Insurance Security Act (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. §1011, et seq.

6. On a date certain, Reliance, issued a policy providing short term

disability insurance benefits under policy number STD 165953 to the Plaintiff through the Plaintiff's employer, HCL America Inc.

7. The policy of insurance aforementioned provided for an employee benefit plan as defined and covered under the terms of ERISA.

8. At all times material and relevant hereto, all policy premiums due on behalf of the Plaintiff under said policy were paid.

9. At all times material and relevant hereto, the Plaintiff performed all obligations required of him under said contract of insurance.

10. At all times material and relevant hereto, the Plaintiff was a qualified participant in the employee benefit plan provided by Reliance to the Plaintiff's employer through policy number STD 165953

11. On a date certain, the Plaintiff filed an application for short term disability benefits with Reliance and benefits were paid from June 22, 2021 to July 2, 2021.

12. By correspondence dated February 11, 2022, Reliance notified the Plaintiff that his claim was denied as they found that he was capable of performing his regular occupation.

13. The Plaintiff filed an administrative appeal of the denial submitted additional medical records and opinions of his treating physician in support of his claim.

16. By correspondence dated September 12, 2022, Reliance denied the Plaintiff's administrative appeal and informed him of his right to bring a civil action disputing the adverse benefit decision.

17. Reliance acted arbitrarily, capriciously and in a manner serving only its own business interest when it denied the Plaintiff's claim for disability benefits.

18. The actions of Reliance in denying the Plaintiff's claim for disability insurance benefits was arbitrary, capricious and was not made in good faith and made in violation of 29 U.S.C. §1001, et seq.

19. The actions of Reliance in denying the Plaintiff's claim for disability insurance benefits are contrary to the language of the policy in question.

20. The Plaintiff is entitled to disability insurance benefits under the aforementioned policy as he has satisfied through medical evidence that she meets the definition of disability under the policy of insurance.

21. The Plaintiff is entitled to recover the benefits due to him under the aforementioned insurance policy in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §1132.

22. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of Reliance as herein above more particularly described, the Plaintiff has been caused to incur attorneys' fees in an amount not yet known.

24. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of Reliance, the Plaintiff has sustained damages in an amount not yet known to the Plaintiff; however, upon

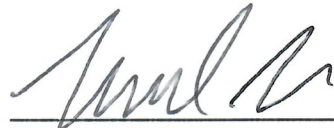
information and belief, such damages will approximate the amount of benefits due and owing to the Plaintiff from July 2, 2021 to the present and continuing into the future.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Demond Ransome, respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Reliance as follows:

1. Ordering Reliance to pay to the Plaintiff, Demond Ransome, short term disability insurance benefits from July 2, 2021 to the present and continuing into the future as provided for in the policy of insurance;
2. Awarding the Plaintiff, Demond Ransome, prejudgment interest on the award until the date of judgment;
3. Awarding the Plaintiff's attorney's fees, court costs and other reasonable costs incurred for the prosecution of the instant action;
4. Granting such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BY:



Michael J. Parker, Esquire
PA Bar ID No.: 93024

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